

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DENVER – December 30, 2013 – The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing announced today that Colorado has received a \$58.5 million Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) Performance Bonus from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This marks the fourth consecutive year Colorado has earned CMS recognition for its ongoing efforts to identify and enroll eligible children in Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+). This is the second consecutive year that Colorado's award has been the highest in the nation.

To qualify for the Performance Bonus, states must, 1) have in place at least five Medicaid and CHIP program features known to promote enrollment and retention in health coverage for children; and 2) demonstrate a significant increase in Medicaid enrollment among children during the course of the federal fiscal year.

Colorado met seven of the eight required program features:

- (1) The removal of the asset test for Medicaid eligibility;
- (2) The elimination of in-person interview requirements;
- (3) The use of one application for applying and renewing Medicaid and CHP+;
- (4) Presumptive Eligibility the ability for applicants who appear to be eligible to receive health care services while waiting for final eligibility determination;
- (5) Health Insurance Buy-In A premium assistance program allowing families to receive subsidies for eligible Medicaid clients to purchase employer insurance;
- (6) Administrative Renewal the use of a pre-populated renewal form that is sent to families asking for household changes but is not required to be returned to renew eligibility; and
- (7) Express Lane Eligibility, which allows families to opt to allow information on the school lunch program application to be used to start a joint Medicaid/CHP+ application.

"The Department, along with our county and community partners, has continued to make progress on increasing the number of insured children in Colorado," says Susan E. Birch, MBA, BSN, RN, executive director. "This performance bonus is the largest amount we have received to date and is the largest award received in the nation. The performance bonus is evidence of the significant progress we have made in modernizing our eligibility and enrollment processes. We will continue working with our partners towards every child in Colorado being insured with public or private health insurance in 2014."

Colorado was one of 23 states to receive the CHIPRA Performance Bonus. Federal fiscal year 2013 is the last year states can qualify for the CHIPRA Performance Bonus. For more information about the CHIPRA Bonus visit www.insurekidsnow.gov.

**About the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing**: The department administers the Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* programs as well as a variety of other programs for low-income Coloradans who qualify. The mission of the department is to improve health care access and outcomes for the people we serve while demonstrating sound stewardship of financial resources. For more information about the department, please visit <a href="Colorado.gov/hcpf">Colorado.gov/hcpf</a>.

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